



2155

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: McLaughlin et al. Attorney Docket: 20206-129 (P01-3725)
Serial No.: 10/071,579 Group Art Unit: 2155
Filed: February 28, 2002 Examiner: Sheikh, Ayaz R.
Title: **METHOD AND PROTOCOL FOR ASSURING SYNCHRONOUS ACCESS
TO CRITICAL FACILITIES IN A MULTI-SYSTEM CLUSTER**

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Date: March 27, 2003

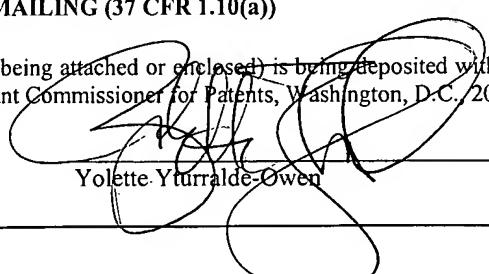

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced patent application,
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